

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Norton City Council was held on Tuesday, August 18, 2015 in the Municipal Council Chambers with Mayor William Mays presiding and followed a reception held for Mary Brown, Clerk of Council, to recognize her 36 years of dedicated service to the City and 26 years as Clerk of Council. Mrs. Brown will be retiring on August 31st.

Present: Mark Caruso, Robert Fultz, Jr., William Mays, and Joseph Fawbush

Absent: Delores Belcher

Also Present: Fred L. Ramey, Jr., City Manager and Bill Bradshaw, City Attorney

The invocation was given by Rev. Freddie Powers and was followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Norton Police Chief James C. Lane.

Upon a motion by Councilman Joseph Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Caruso, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to adopt the minutes of the July 21, 2015 and August 4, 2015 meetings as presented.

25610

During the Mayor's call for visitors, Larry Carter of Kentucky Avenue spoke to Council regarding the possibility of the adoption of UTV Ordinance. He is proposing to start a business of snow removal and had discussed this with Council at an earlier meeting. He was inquiring as to the status of his request.

Mayor Mays advised the City Administration has been working on this ordinance.

The City Attorney advised that the City has to work with the Virginia Department of Transportation and everything will have to go through them first.

25611

Councilman Caruso asked if a Special Use Permit could be issued for Mr. Carter's use during the winter months only since this is a business venture and not for recreational purposes. Mr. Bradshaw advised he would study this and see what information he can find.

Following a brief discussion, it was the consensus of Council for the City Administration and City Attorney to research the possibility of legally issuing a Special Use Permit for Mr. Carter.

Council had been presented with A Resolution Requesting the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Add the City's Reservoir to its Fish Management and Stocking Program.

Mr. Ramey advised that a representative of the VDGIF attended Council's previous meeting and discussed the possibility of managing and partnering with the City for the stocking and handling the City's fishing area. With the adoption of this resolution, the process will begin.

25612

Councilman Caruso stated he felt this would be a big help in getting fishermen back to the City and will be beneficial to the economic growth of the City.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt A Resolution Requesting the Virginia

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Add the City's Reservoir to its Fish Management and Stocking Program. (Insert)

The City Manager provided Council with an update on the Norton Elementary and Middle School's use of the former swimming pool property. After giving a brief history on this, he advised that the City needed to do two things to start this process. The first was to advertise and see if anyone wanted to use this property. This was done and the only response was from the NEMS. The second item to be done was the preparation of a lease. Enclosed is a draft 40 year lease prepared by the City Attorney which meets all state requirements.

Mr. Bradshaw advised that this draft lease allows both the City and the school the opportunity to cancel the lease should either of them select to do so.

The City Manager advised there are still two actions that need to be taken. One is that he would like to request proposals from contractors to take the building down for materials and the second is to move the electrical service at a cost of approximately \$3,000. He will need permission from Council to do this. Mr. Ramey advised the City would like to keep part of the building as the Parks and Recreation Department uses it for storage.

25613

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council authorized the City Administration to advertise a Request for Proposal to tear down a portion of the building for the cost of materials and secondly, to move forward on having the electrical service removed from this building at an estimated cost of \$3,000.

In their packets, Council had a copy of a transfer in the amount of \$150,000 to the Norton City Schools.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to approve the transfer to the Norton City Schools in the amount of \$150,000.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous roll call vote, Council moved to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel as per Section No. 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia, as amended, and discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publically held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body as per Section 2.2-3711 (A) (3) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

25614

Mayor Mays declared Council in closed meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved to go back into open meeting.

25615

Mayor Mays declared Council back in open meeting.

The Clerk polled each member of Council as to the Certification of Closed Meeting with each answering yes.

The Clerk then read A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

Upon a motion by Councilman Fawbush, seconded by Councilman Fultz, and passed by the following unanimous vote: YES – Caruso, Fultz, Fawbush, Mays, NO – None, ABSENT – Belcher, Council moved to adopt A Resolution of the Certification of Closed Meeting. (Insert)

25616

Mayor Mays opened the floor for two nominations to the Wise County/City of Norton Youth Services Board for the remainder of four year terms.

Councilman Fultz nominated Dylan Dockery and Allison Baker.

Upon a motion by Councilman Caruso, seconded by Councilman Fawbush, and passed by unanimous vote, Council moved that the nominations cease.

Mayor Mays declared Dylan Dockery appointed to the Wise County/City of Norton Youth Services Board for the remainder of a four year term which will expire on May 2, 2016 and Allison Baker appointed to the Wise County/City of Norton Youth Services Board for the remainder of a four year term which will expire on July 1, 2018.

25617

In comments from the City Manager, Mr. Ramey advised that:

He had placed copies of the latest Sales Tax Report on each member of Council's desk.

He would like for the minutes to state his appreciation to the Clerk for all of her efforts and he will miss her.

25618

In comments from the City Attorney, Mr. Bradshaw advised that he, too, would miss Mrs. Brown. He had worked closely with her and it was a pleasure.

25619

In comments from Councilman Caruso, he stated that:

He would like to set a new date for a Strategic Planning Meeting by the next Council meeting in order to discuss the path the City is taking.

He would like for an off-line meeting be held to consider the naming of trails and to map out the system.

He would like for Council to consider changing the ordinance on fishing and to take a comprehensive look at the whole piece. He also wants to discuss boats on the lower reservoir. A brief discussion ensued on this.

25620

In comments from Councilman Fultz, he advised that:

He would like to express his thanks to Mrs. Brown advising that he had dealt with her as a citizen as well as a member of Council. She has always been professional and made his transition to Council a lot easier. He advised that the City had been fortunate to have some really good people in the form of employees, volunteers, and citizens. An example of this was the former City Manager, Ernie Ward, who had been present for Mrs. Brown's reception. He was thankful for Mr. Ward's years and wisdom during his tenure as City Manager. He also commended Mr. Ramey for his effort for putting items in place such as the Safe Routes to School Project. He stated he feels that good things are coming.

25621

Councilman Fawbush also extended his thanks and appreciation to Mrs. Brown and wished her well in her retirement.

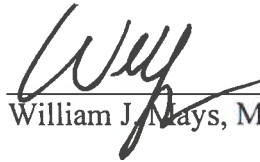
25622

Mayor Mays stated his comments to Mrs. Brown for her 36 years of service to the City could be said in two words – “Thank you”.

25623

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

CITY OF NORTON, VIRGINIA



William J. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:



Clerk